

Reading Courses Assignments

Ensuring that an appropriately prepared and endorsed teacher is assigned to teach in Michigan's classrooms is critical to student achievement.

A true corrective reading and/or comprehension course must be taught by a Reading Specialist (BR), Reading (BT), or Language Arts (BX) endorsed teacher. This includes courses where the teacher uses a boxed, scripted program (e.g., Read180, Corrective Reading) for which the teacher assesses and places students in the program based upon their assessment scores, and then gives the students workbooks and other materials from the program to teach prescribed decoding and comprehension skills. While it is packaged and scripted, teachers provide more than facilitation by evaluating and grouping students based upon that evaluation. Therefore, the teacher should hold the appropriate endorsement. An English (BA) endorsement is not the appropriate endorsement for this type of course. Refer to the [Online or Computer-based Instruction](#) for additional information on the difference between facilitating instruction and teaching.

Districts, in an effort to build and reinforce the reading skills of their students and to increase student achievement, have also begun developing courses to teach reading skills in the content areas. These courses utilize teachers certified in the content areas and but not certified in reading. It is necessary to evaluate these courses and refer to the [Proper Placement Considerations](#) document to ensure the class is taught by an appropriately prepared teacher.

Michigan's Teacher Certification Code contains two distinct requirements in the teaching of reading that **all** teachers must complete, including one based upon Michigan Compiled Law 380.1531(4). Therefore, all teachers, who have completed these reading requirements, should have the preparation necessary to teach reading within their endorsed content areas. They would not, however, have the preparation necessary to provide reading instruction in isolation. For more information on these reading requirements please review the [Reading Coursework Requirements for Michigan Teacher Certification](#) document.

Typically the biggest area of concern is when the course is called "Reading". A course called "Reading" would indicate that reading is being taught in isolation. However, if the course truly involves content, the title of the course should reflect the content. For example, "Scientific Reading", "Reading in Literature" or "Extended Readings in Social Studies" would be appropriate titles for these elective courses taught by a science, English or social studies teacher,

respectively. The course description should emphasize the study of the core course content alongside the reading strategies and interventions. Clearly naming the course provides stronger alignment with the endorsement held by the teacher. The course could then be taught by the core subject teacher and would not require a Reading (BT) or Reading Specialist (BR) endorsed teacher. This class could be reported with the core subject area assignment code (e.g., 000DX, 000BA, 000RX, etc.) within the Registry of Educational Personnel (REP), even though they should be considered an elective, and would not need to be reported as a Reading (000BT) or Language Arts (000BX) course.

Additional information regarding appropriate placement of teachers can be found in the [Quick Reference: Courses That Can Be Taught](#).